

CLAIMS

1. A fabric care composition comprising a cross-linking agent and a hydroxyl-containing polymer.
2. A composition according to claim 1, in which the cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids, anhydrides, aldehydes, epoxides, acyl halides, isocyanates, and derivatives thereof.
3. A composition according to claim 1, in which the cross-linking agent is a polycarboxylic acid or a derivative thereof.
4. A composition according to claim 1, in which the cross-linking agent is a polycarboxylic acid or a derivative thereof which contains at least 3 carboxyl groups.
5. A composition according to claim 1, in which the cross-linking agent is 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid.
6. A composition according to claim 1, which further comprises a catalyst.
7. A composition according to claim 6 in which the catalyst is an alkali metal hypophosphite, an alkali metal phosphite, an alkali metal polyphosphate or an alkali metal dihydrogen phosphate.
8. A composition according to claim 6, in which the catalyst is sodium hypophosphite.
9. A composition according to claim 1, in which the hydroxyl-containing polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(alkenyl alcohols), polysaccharides, polypeptides, hydroxyalkyl-substituted nylons, and derivatives thereof.
10. A composition according to claim 1, in which the hydroxyl-containing polymer is a poly(alkenyl alcohol), a polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.

11. A composition according to claim 1, in which the hydroxyl-containing polymer is poly(vinyl alcohol), poly (allyl alcohol), amylose, starch, amylopectin, guar gum, xanthan gum, tamarind xyloglucan, carrageenan or a derivative thereof.
12. A composition according to claim 1, in which the hydroxyl-containing polymer is poly(vinyl alcohol) or carrageenan.
13. A composition according to claim 1, in which the cross-linking agent is present in an amount of from 0.01% to 20% by weight of the total composition.
14. A composition according to claim 1, in which the hydroxyl-containing polymer is present in an amount of from 0.01% to 15% by weight of the total composition.
15. A composition according to claim 1, which is in a form suitable for spraying onto a fabric.
16. A composition according to claim 1, which forms part of a rinse conditioner or main wash product.
17. A method of treating fabric which comprises treating the fabric with a fabric care composition according to claim 1 and curing the composition.
18. A method according to claim 17, in which the composition is applied to the fabric prior to drying and/or ironing.
19. A method according to claim 17, in which the composition is applied to the fabric during the wash and/or rinse cycle of a laundry process.
20. A method according to claim 17, in which the composition is cured by ironing.
21. Use of a composition according to claim 1 to impart crease and/or wrinkle resistance to a fabric.

22. Use of a hydroxyl-containing polymer as defined in claim1 to increase the tearing resistance of a fabric.